



Drug disposal policy

DISPOSING OF UNUSED DRUGS

The Federal Government issued unused drug disposal guidelines on February 20, 2007, to address public health and environmental concerns. Based on these guidelines, the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District has developed this policy statement.

The Metro District prefers that unused drugs not be flushed down the toilet. Doing so introduces these drugs to the environment. Even though the amount from a single pill is small, the accumulation of these small amounts and the yet-unknown effects on aquatic life and the water environment concern us. Presently there are limited means to remove these drugs during the wastewater treatment process.

Our preferred option:

- Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow you to bring unused drugs to central locations for proper disposal. Different pharmacies offer different programs. Some will take back drugs they sold, some take back all drugs, some take back none, and others offer solutions somewhere in between. Contact your local pharmacy.

Second Option:

- Remove the prescription drug or medication from the original container and mix it with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
- Put that mixture in a non-descript container that won't leak such as an empty can or a sealable bag. This ensures the drugs aren't diverted for non-medical use or accidentally ingested by children or pets.
- Dispose of these containers in the trash.

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District is the wastewater treatment authority for most of the metropolitan Denver area. It serves Arvada, Aurora, Denver, Lakewood, Thornton, part of Westminster, and more than 40 sanitation and water and sanitation districts in Jefferson, Arapahoe and Adams Counties.

The Metro District's treatment plant is adjacent to the South Platte River north of Denver at approximately 64th Avenue and York Street. It discharges treated water into the South Platte. Its 227-million-gallon-a-day capacity makes it the largest treatment plant in the Rocky Mountain West.